

REMARKS

Claim 2 has been revised to correct a clerical error. Claim 5 has been revised based upon established U.S. patent practice. The revision is supported by the specification at least by paragraph [0031].

New claims 6 and 7 have been introduced and are supported at least by claim 5 as previously presented.

No new matter has been introduced, and entry of the revised claim is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 were restricted into Groups I-II and were subject to an election of species.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group I, wherein the R¹ and R² substituents do not form an additional heterocycle, without traverse.

With respect to the apparent Requirement to elect a species by election of a single compound, Applicants respectfully note their understanding of the practice that a species election is used to facilitate the necessary search and that should the elected species be found allowable, search and examination in the application continues with the next species. Additionally, the genus claims are examined to the extent that they encompass the elected species. If this understanding is incorrect, Applicants request clarification in the next Office communication.

With this understanding, Applicants elect, without traverse, 5-hydroxymethylfuran-2-carboxyaldehyde (Compound No. 1), the preparation of which is described in Example 1. Should the instant Requirement to elect a species be in fact a Restriction of the elected compound from the other compounds encompassed by the instant claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the Requirement as an improper refusal to examine genus claims 1-7, which Applicants regard as their invention.

Applicants submit that Claims 1-7 are generic with respect to the elected species (compound).

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to further the prosecution of the present invention.

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Respectfully submitted,

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